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ABSTRACT

Part of continuing background research on local government, this report estimates the number of children in day care in the Washington, D.C., area and supplies basic data on the role local governments in this region play in day care provision. The text consists mainly of 15 tables of data, several of which are based on interviews with local officials; in most cases, these provide figures for each of the area's six central jurisdictions--District of Columbia, Alexandria (Virginia), Virginia counties of Arlington and Fairfax, and Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges. The first four tables provide, for comparative purposes, information about numbers of women working, children residing within the area, children with working mothers, and children in day care. The next six tables focus on several dimensions of subsidized day care. The final five offer data concerning provision of before- and after-school care, the regulation of family day care, the number of day care centers, and centers' total licensed capacity, as well as government-sponsored child care information and referral services. The text of the report expands on and interprets the tabulated data. Also included are a summary of findings, a list of some unresolved questions, and three appended tables concerning regulations for smaller and larger family day care homes and for the distribution of children ages 0 through 4 years and 5 through 13 years across the six jurisdictions. (RH)

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DAY CARE:

The Role of Washington-Area Local Governments

BY
JOAN MAXWELL

JULY 1982

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PREFACE

Of the nation's ten major metropolitan areas, Washington has the highest proportion of women who work. This fact has social and economic implications in a number of areas, including day care.

This report estimates the number of children in day care in the Washington region. It also supplies basic data on the role Washington-area local governments play in day care. The analysis presented in this paper is part of the background research in progress for the Center's Task Force on Local Government. The Task Force will release its findings and recommendations in November, 1982.

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- In 1980 more than 500,000 children under fourteen lived in the Washington area (the District of Columbia, the City of Alexandria, and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's).
- Roughly 300,000 of these children are estimated to have been in some form of day care.
- 130,000 children are estimated to have been in day care 10 hours a week or more and 175,000 children are estimated to have been in day care less than 10 hours a week.
- The six jurisdictions spent about $16 million dollars to subsidize day care in fiscal year 1981 for 7600 children.
- Despite projected federal cutbacks in day care funding, these same jurisdictions currently plan to spend over $18 million dollars on such care in fiscal year 1983 for about 7,900 children.
- The jurisdictions differ widely in their approach to regulating small family day care homes (the most common providers of day care): three license them, one has a mandatory approval process, one has a voluntary certification program, and one has a voluntary training program.
- 1,387 small family day care homes are licensed, 368 are approved, 85 are certified, and 300 have participated in voluntary training.
- Four of the six central jurisdictions offer after school care; three offer before school care; three offer after kindergarten care; in fiscal year 1982 they served more than 3,000 children at a cost of over $2,750,000.

- Some 657 day care centers (the least common form of day care) are licensed by the jurisdictions to offer care to an authorized total of about 34,200 children.
- All six jurisdictions offer information services parents can telephone to learn the names of day care providers; these services vary in sophistication and type of assistance offered.

DAY CARE: THE ROLE OF WASHINGTON-AREA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Kids aren't being brought up the way they used to be.

In the 50s, most American mothers were housewives. They took care of their children from birth until they started school, and continued to keep an eye on them during their after-school hours. Those mothers who worked--relatively uncommon thirty years ago--usually had a helpful older child, mother, or sister nearby to lend a hand.

Today, things have changed. The working mother is the norm. Nearly half of all mothers of children under six work outside the home, as do nearly two-thirds of all mothers of children between the ages of 6 and 17 (see Table 1).

Table 1
Percentage of Women in the U.S.
Labor Force by Age of Children
1950 and 1980 Compared

Age of Children	Percent of Women in the Labor Force	
	1950	1980
Children under 6 years old	13.6	46.7
Children 6-17 years old	32.8	64.3
No children under 18	31.4	42.0

SOURCE: "The Children of Working Mothers" by Martin O'Connell et al., American Demographics, April, 1982, p. 27.

A few mothers join the labor force in search of personal fulfillment, but the vast majority work because they have to, either because they're single parents or because their income is needed to sustain their families. And those handy relatives of yesteryear are generally no longer available to help with the kids. As family sizes shrink, older children are less common. Working women's mothers and sisters often don't live nearby; likely as not they're in the labor force themselves.

Consequently, more and more parents are hiring others to care for their children while they're at work. According to the National Day Care Home Study, a recent study financed by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Ford Foundation, one quarter of all American children aged 14 and under are in some form of day care 10 hours or more a week. Another 34 percent are in day care less than 10 hours a week.[1] Although the implications of this new development are not yet fully understood, day care has quite suddenly become an integral part of most American children's lives.

How Many Area Children are in Day Care?

Although no systematic survey of day care use in the Washington area currently exists, we have some data available to help us make a few informed guesses. In the six central jurisdictions, the 1980 Census showed approximately 165,000 children under five years of age and about 350,000 aged five to thirteen years, for a total of over half a million children under the age of fourteen (see Table 2).

Table 2
Children Under 5 Years and Children 5-13 Years
Six Central Jurisdictions
1980

Jurisdiction	Number of Children 0-4 Years	5-13 Years	Total 0-13 Years
District of Columbia	34,365	69,682	104,047
Montgomery County	33,374	76,826	110,200
Prince George's County	46,419	95,640	142,059
Alexandria	5,486	8,808	14,294
Arlington County	6,889	11,794	18,683
Fairfax County	38,326	89,100	127,425
Total	164,859	351,850	516,708

Source: U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 1980, Summary Tape File 1 (unpublished data).

If we take from Table 1 the national averages for mothers in the labor force who have children and apply them to Washington-area children, we derive a very rough estimate of nearly 77,000 children under five with working mothers and over 225,000 children aged five to thirteen with working mothers. These estimates from national averages yield a total of just over 300,000 area children under age 14 with working mothers, and if broken down by jurisdiction would result in Table 3.

Table 3
Estimated Numbers of Children
0-13 Years with Working Mothers
Six Central Jurisdictions
1980

Jurisdiction	Children 0-4 Years	Children 5-13 Years	Total 0-13 Years
District of Columbia	16,000	44,800	60,800
Montgomery County	15,600	49,400	65,000
Prince George's County	21,700	61,500	83,200
Alexandria	2,600	5,700	8,300
Arlington County	3,200	7,600	10,800
Fairfax County	17,900	57,300	75,200
Total	77,000	226,300	303,300

Source: U.S. 1980 Census of children in the six central jurisdictions aged under 5 years and aged 5 to 13 years multiplied by corresponding 1980 national averages of working mothers (46.7 percent and 64.3 percent respectively) and rounded to nearest 100.

These rough estimates may overstate or understate the actual numbers. It may be that the national figure of 64.3 percent of all children aged 6-17 with working mothers is tilted at the high end of the scale (mothers of children aged 14-17), meaning that we should use a lower multiplier for the 5-13 age group. On the other hand, according to the latest available statistics, the Washington region has the highest percentage of women in the labor force of

any major metropolitan area in the country[2]. Thus our use of national averages may be too conservative. However, although we cannot be sure of exact numbers, these estimates seem reliable enough to give us a general idea of the numbers of children in our region whose mothers are in the labor force.

A great many of the children of working mothers are in day care. Not all, however, by any means. Some children may be cared for by their fathers. Others, as we shall see, may not be cared for at all while their mothers are away from home.

There are, of course, other reasons for children to be in day care in addition to having a mother in the labor force. Some children live alone with a working father, some have mothers who are ill, institutionalized, or away from home for other reasons. And some children have mothers who do not work but who still use day care for their children. To date, we have no way to know how these various factors for and against day care use balance out.

There's another way to look at the question of how many of our region's children are in day care. If our experience follows national averages from the National Day Care Home Study, about 130,000 of our children would be in day care 10 hours a week or more, with another 175,000 or so in day care less than 10 hours a week[3]. This yields a total estimate of 305,000 children in day care, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Estimated Numbers of Children
0-13 Years of Age in Day Care
Six Central Jurisdictions
1980

Jurisdiction	Children in Day Care 10 hrs./wk. or more	Under 10 hrs./wk.	Total
District of Columbia	26,000	35,400	61,400
Montgomery County	27,600	37,500	65,100
Prince George's County	35,500	48,300	83,800
Alexandria	3,600	4,900	8,500
Arlington County	4,700	6,400	11,100
Fairfax County	31,900	43,300	75,200
Total	129,300	175,800	305,100

Source: U.S. 1980 Census of children in the six central jurisdictions aged 0 to 13 years multiplied by corresponding National Day Care Home Study averages for children in day care 10 hours a week or more (25 percent) and less than 10 hours a week (34 percent) and rounded to nearest 100.

Types of Day Care

When most people think of day care, they think of day care centers. Surprisingly, of the three basic forms of day care, day care centers are the least common. The most common is known as family day care. In this form, a person -- almost always a woman -- takes into her home one or more children who are not her own for varying periods of time, usually for a fee. The next most common form is day care given by another person in the child's own home. Sometimes this in-home care is done without charge by a relative, and sometimes it is done for a fee. The least common form is day care centers. Usually not located in people's homes, these are buildings or rooms set aside for the purpose of day care. Day care centers employ adults to care for the children who are brought to the center for care.

There is a fourth course of action which some working parents follow, and that is no day care at all. Some parents cannot find day care they feel they can afford. Some cannot find day care they feel is satisfactory. Some prefer not to make formal day care arrangements, especially those with a somewhat older child who has relatively few hours at home alone before an adult returns from work. Children in this situation have become known as latchkey children. We do not currently have data on latchkey children either nationally or in the Washington area.

Nationally, according to the Home Study, although the birth rate has been declining until very recently, as more mothers enter the work force demand for day care is expected to increase. Demand is expected to be most intense for care for children under school age, especially for children under 24 months[4]. It seems likely that the same will hold true for the Washington region.

A great deal of this care will almost surely come from family day care. The Home Study researchers found that 72 percent of children receiving 10 hours a week or more of day care outside their homes were in family day care, while the remaining 28 percent were in day care centers. Younger children are entrusted to family day care to a greater degree than are older children, perhaps because "the likelihood that a child will be accepted into a group-care institution, such as a head start center or a nursery school, increases with the child's age."[5] The Home Study report pointed out that the increase in employment of women with children under three is even more substantial than that of women with children under six,[6] suggesting increased demand for family day care.

Subsidized Day Care

All six central Washington-area jurisdictions provide subsidized day care for the children of working parents or parents in school whose incomes fall below certain minimums. The jurisdictions do this in the belief that subsidized day care makes it easier for low-income parents to hold down jobs or get job-related skills and is less than the cost of welfare payments. The jurisdictions spent $16 million in fiscal year 1981 in subsidized day care services to over 7,600 children (see Table 5).

Table 5
Subsidized Purchases of Day
Care Services (Actual)
Six Central Jurisdictions
FY 1981

Jurisdiction	Annual Amount	Average Number of Children/Mo.
District of Columbia	$11,501,800	4,600[1]
Montgomery County	1,725,262	1,060
Prince George's County	835,930	600
Alexandria	425,056	294
Arlington County	439,000	229
Fairfax County:		
DSS Program[2]	851,923	524
Office for Children Program	343,904	347[3]
Total	$16,122,875	7,654

[1] In addition, the District of Columbia served 957 children in its summer program.
[2] Includes cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.
[3] Estimate only.

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials.

Although only six percent of the District of Columbia's purchases came from federal funds under the Title XX program, Title XX money played a significant role in the funds allocated by the other five jurisdictions. Title XX was merged into a social services block grant in October, 1981, which is expected to be significantly smaller than the programs it is replacing. Interestingly, however, even though they anticipate reduced Title XX funds, the six jurisdictions expect to spend well over $18 million in subsidized day care services in fiscal 1983. Five of the six jurisdictions -- the District, Montgomery, Prince George's, Fairfax, and Arlington -- plan to increase their day care expenditures. Only Alexandria expects to reduce its expenditures in this area. They estimate the total number of children served will rise slightly (see Table 6).

Table 6
Subsidized Purchases of Day
Care Services (Estimated)
Six Central Jurisdictions
FY 1983

Jurisdiction	Amount	Average Number of Children/Mo.
District of Columbia	$13,694,500	4,700[1]
Montgomery County	1,946,600	1,124
Prince George's County	927,262	600
Alexandria	302,417[2]	384
Arlington County	520,000	265
Fairfax County		
DSS Program	496,993	375
Office for Children Program	711,618	525+
Total	$18,599,390	7,973

[1] In addition, the District of Columbia expects to serve 1,103 children in its summer program
[2] Estimated for FY 1984

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials

Most jurisdictions provide subsidized care both in day care centers and in family day care. The total cost to the jurisdiction per child per week is consistently higher for center care than for family day care. Significant variations in cost exist within each form of care from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Cost of family day care ranges from a low of $27.50 a week in Prince George's County to a high of $43.25 in Montgomery. Center care cost varies from $44 a week in Prince George's to $62.50 in the District of Columbia (see Table 7).

Table 7
Full Weekly Subsidy for One Child in Day Care
Day Care Centers and Family Day Care Compared
Six Central Jurisdictions
1982

Jurisdiction	Day Care Center	Family Day Care
District of Columbia	$62.50	$35.00
Montgomery County	52.40	43.25
Prince George's County	44.00	27.50
Alexandria	NA	$0.80 to $1.00/hour
Arlington County	Rates vary	$0.80/hr or $8/day
Fairfax County		
DSS Program	Rates vary	$0.75/hr to $0.90/hr
Office for Children Progam	49.00	Not included

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials.

Variations also exist in the maximum income a parent may have and still receive a full subsidy for a child's day care. For example, Prince George's County requires a parent to have no more than 40 percent of Maryland's median

income, while the District of Columbia's cut-off point is 62 percent of the District's median income. (see Table 8).

Table 8
Maximum Permissible Income to
Qualify for Fully Subsidized Day Care
Six Central Jurisdictions
1982

Jurisdiction	Maximum Percent of State Median Income	Maximum Annual Income for a Family of Four
District of Columbia	62[1]	$13,212
Montgomery County	40	9,873
Prince George's County	40	9,873
Alexandria	50	not available
Arlington County	55	12,637
Fairfax County[2]	50	11,496

[1] Raised from 50 percent to 62 percent in 1981 in response to federal median income calculations the District felt were understated. The percentage is currently under review.
[2] Title XX Program

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials.

Some jurisdictions provide partly subsidized day care for the children of parents meeting certain income standards. Again, variations exist among jurisdictions as to the income standards and as to the ranges of minimum and maximum weekly fees parents must pay. The lowest minimum is $1.40 in the District of Columbia for family day care and the highest maximum is $48 in Fairfax County for center care (see Table 9).

Table 9
Income Ranges and Weekly Parents' Fees
for Partly Subsidized Day Care
Six Central Jurisdictions
1982

Jurisdiction	Maximum Percent of State Median Income	Maximum Annual Income for a Family of Four	Parent's Fee Day Care Center	Parent's Fee Family Day Care
District of Columbia	62-106%	$13,213-22,589	$2.50-$12.50	$1.40- 7.00
Montgomery County	40-80	9,874-19,749	5.00- 44.00	2.50- 27.50
Prince George's County	40-65	9,874-16,045	5.00- 21.50	2.50- 13.00
Alexandria	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arlington County	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fairfax County[1]	50% of County median income	5,499-19,999[2]	2.00-48.00	not included

[1] Office for Children Program
[2] Adjusted gross family income after deductions of $1,000 per child, outstanding medical expenses, child support to other household and other specified deductions.

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials.

With one exception, jurisdictions subsidize day care center care more than either family day care or in-home care. 90 percent of the District of Columbia's subsidized children are in day care centers, as are 80 percent of Mongtomery County's, two thirds of Prince George's County's and Alexandria's, over half of Arlington's, and all of the children in Fairfax County's Office for Children program. The sole exception is Fairfax County's Title XX Program, where 45 percent are in family day care, 44 percent in day care centers, and 11 percent in in-home care. The only other jurisdiction that subsidizes in-home care is the District of Columbia, with about six percent of its subsidized children in such care (see Table 10).

Table 10
Average Monthly Numbers of Children
Receiving Subsidized Day Care
Day Care Centers, Family Day Care
and In-Home Care Compared
Six Central Jurisdictions
1982

Jurisdiction	Total No. of Children	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	In-Home Care
District of Columbia	4,136[1]	3,738	147	251
Montgomery County	1,027	819	208	0
Prince George County	600	400	200	0
Alexandria	133	92	41	0
Arlington County	275	145	120	10
Fairfax County				
Title XX Program[2]	524[3]	230	236	58
Office for Children Program	347[4]	347	0	0
Total	7,042	5,771	952	319

[1] Average for April, 1982.
[2] Includes cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.
[3] FY 1981 data.
[4] FY 1981 data. Estimate only.

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials.

Before and After School Care

Four of the six central jurisdictions offer some form of before and after school care. Fairfax County and Arlington County offer before and after school care and after kindergarten care. Alexandria does not offer before school care but does offer both after school care and after kindergarten care. The District of Columbia does not offer after kindergarten care but does offer before and after school care. All four jurisdictions ask parents to pay some part of the cost, depending on the parents' incomes. Together, the four

jurisdictions served around 3,000 children in fiscal year 1982 at a cost of over $2,750,000 (see Table 11).

Table 11
Before and After School Care Programs
Four Central Jurisdictions
FY 1982

	Alexandria	Arlington County	District of Columbia	Fairfax County
Number of Schools Offering Program	3	22	-[1]	29[2]
Number of Children Served	90	1,156	957	912
Total Program Funding:		$691,941	$1,148,352	$1,013,712
Paid by the jurisdiction:	NA	238,425	1,079,451	332,043
Parents' fees:		453,516	none[3]	681,669
Title XX federal funds:		none	68,901	none
Cost to Parents per Month:				
Low-High:				
Before School	not offered	11.75-83.50	3.87-19.35[4]	$1.50-31.50
After School	$3.00-80.00			$3.25-65.00
After Kindergarten		8.50-60.50	not offered[5]	$3.25-65.00
Eligibility Requirements				
Age group (Grades served)	(K-4)	4-12 (K-6)	6-14	K-6
Children attending Jurisdiction's schools	yes	yes	yes	yes
Parents Employed or in school	yes	yes	yes	yes
Income limit	no	no	over $22,589 for a family of four	no

[1] The District of Columbia's Department of Human Services' programs are offered in day care centers, family day care homes, and in-home care. The District's Recreation Department's programs and the National Child Day Care Association's programs, both funded by DHS, are offered in a total of 14 schools and in other locations.

[2] Before and after school care for eligible families is also available through Fairfax's Department of Social Services as part of the regular day care program.

[3] Parents' fees are retained by day care centers and providers.

[4] Estimate.

[5] The District of Columbia provides full day care to preschool through kindergarten age groups.

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials.

Regulation of Family Day Care

If the national statistics hold true for Washington, then more than seven out of every ten children in day care 10 hours a week or more outside their own homes are in family day care. That is, they are taken care of in someone else's home. Furthermore, according to the National Day Care Home Study, well over 90 percent of all children in family day care are supervised by unregulated providers -- that is, providers who are not monitored by a government agency.

The six central jurisdictions of the Washington region mirror the wide variety of approaches governments take to the regulation of family day care. Three jurisdictions -- the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Prince George's County -- require family day care providers to be licensed if they care for even one unrelated child. Arlington requires such providers to go through a mandatory approval process. Alexandria has a voluntary certification program for providers caring for small numbers of children. Fairfax County has a voluntary training program that makes participating providers eligible for referral to parents seeking day care. It also has a mandatory approval process for providers who participate in the Title XX day care subsidy program. Their approaches are summarized in Table 12 and presented in more detail in Appendix A. All six jurisdictions license family day care homes with children over a certain minimum number. Table 13 summarizes their approaches to such homes and Appendix B gives them in more detail.

Table 12
Regulations for Family Day Care Homes
With a Small Number of Children
Six Central Jurisdictions
May, 1982

	District of Columbia	Mongtomery County	Prince George's County	Alexandria	Arlington County	Fairfax County	
Mandatory license/approval	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	yes[1]	-
Voluntary certify/train	-	-	-	yes	-	-	yes[2]
Minimum/maximum of children in homes	1-5	1-6	1-6	1-5	1-3	1-5	1-5
Physical exams required	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Inspections required	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no

[1] DSS Program
[2] Office for Children Program

Source: Interviews with Clavel Albay in April-May 1982 with local officials.

(For more detail, see Appendix A.)

Table 13
Regulations for Family Day Care Homes
Serving Over a Certain Minimum Number of Children
Six Central Jurisdictions
May, 1982

	District of Columbia	Montgomery County	Prince George's County	Alexandria	Arlington County	Fairfax County
Minimum/maximum number of children in home	6 or more	7 or more	7 or more	6-9	4-9	6-9
Treated same as day care center	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no
Physical examinations required	Subject to all require-			yes	yes	yes
Inspections required	ments covering			yes	yes	yes
Zoning permits required	day care centers			yes	yes	yes
Mandatory orientation program	-	-	-	yes	no	yes

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay in April-May 1982 with local officials.

(For more detail, see Appendix B.)

Licensed Capacity of Day Care Centers

A question commonly asked in the day care field is: where are the children? At present we have no way of answering this question for the six central jurisdictions. Unregulated family day care providers, in-home caregivers, and latchkey children are all outside the recordkeeping system. Even published lists of regulated family day care providers age rapidly, as a telephone survey quickly reveals.

The only number we can identify with a fair degree of accuracy is the number of children that area licensed day care centers are presently authorized to serve. But we should remember two facts in looking at these numbers. First, licensed capacity differs from actual capacity. Second, day care centers are the least common form of day care. If we weren't already aware of that fact from the National Day Care Home Study, we'd almost certainly draw that conclusion for the Washington area, as the total licensed capacity of our centers is roughly 34,200 or about 11 percent of our estimated total of children in day care (see Table 14).

Table 14
Number of Day Care Centers and
Total Licensed Capacity
Six Central Jurisdictions
1981,1982

	Number of Day Care Centers	Total Licensed Capacity
District of Columbia	280	14,419[1]
Montgomery County	136	5,711[2]
Prince George's County	125	5,816[2]
Alexandria	12	645[1]
Arlington County	24	1,563[1]
Fairfax County	80	6,074[1]
Total	657	34,228

[1] As of June, 1982
[2] As of October, 1981

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials

Child Care Information and Referral Services

Presently, the most commonly used system for locating day care is word-of-mouth, which is of limited help to many parents. An alternative is telephone-accessed child care information and referral systems. These are telephone numbers parents can call to learn possible sources of child care for their children. Child care information and referral systems (CCIRs) exist in many forms around the country, including all six central jurisdictions in the Washington area.

According to Project Connections, a recent HHS-funded study of the functions and effects of child care information and referral services,[6] fully developed referral programs have the potential to:

- o balance supply and demand
  - -- identify child care resources that would otherwise be unknown to parents
  - -- maximize the use of existing child care slots in both day care centers and family day care homes
  - -- facilitate the development of new resources where existing services are inadequate
  - -- help balance local and seasonal imbalances in supply and demand
- o combine the two streams of child care (the subsidized one used primarily by low income groups and the private one used primarily by the middle class) into one universally accessible child care system
- o increase the choices open to parents
  - -- encourage the type of matching between caregiver and child that researchers have found important for child development
  - -- enable parents to choose the programs or settings that are most appropriate for their children

- o be used as a vehicle for improving the quality of child care
  - -- by making technical assistance and caregiver training available to providers on a voluntary basis
  - -- by providing information to parents about quality and thus helping to regulate and upgrade programs through parental selection
- o collect local data on imbalances, if any, between supply and demand for planning purposes
- o promote economies of scale for provider units through joint purchasing, sharing of support services, and linking with community resources

The governmentally sponsored child care information and referral services in the Washington area offer varying degrees of assistance to parents. Alexandria, for example, mails a set list of licensed day care centers. Fairfax County has put licensed day care centers and trained family day care providers on a computer, thus allowing it to give parents names of centers and/or providers within a specifically-requested geographic area (see Table 15).

Table 15
Child Care Information & Referral Services
Six Central Jurisdictions
May, 1982

Jurisdiction	No. of Requests	Type of Service
District of Columbia	NA	Mails list of licensed family day care homes and day care centers.
Alexandria	NA	Mails list of licensed day care centers only.
Arlington County	1,180 Jan-April 1982	Mails list of approved family day care homes and licensed day care centers.

(continued)

Fairfax County	600-700 requests per month	Computer stores names of licensed day care centers and family day care providers who completed an approved training program, all listed by zip code or area. According to location and type of day care requested, parents are sent appropriate names, along with other child care information materials.
Montgomery County	Approximately 1,000 per month	Licensed family day care homes are listed according to zip codes. Parents are given about four names and phone numbers of providers whom they can call and interview. CCIR monitors available day care spots. Information about licensed day care centers is contained in the Blue Book on Child Care, available in public libraries.
Prince George's County	Approximately 300 per month	Licensed family day care homes and centers are listed by geographic area. At least three names of providers are given for parents to call and interview.

Source: Interviews by Clavel Albay with local officials.

Some Unresolved Questions

From local governments' perspective, some of the major unresolved questions involving day care include:

-- what is the need in our jurisdiction for subsidized day care?

-- how much of that need should we try to meet? how much can we afford to meet?

-- what is the need in our jurisdiction for before and after school care?

-- how much of that need should we try to meet on a cost-recovery or profit-making basis? as a subsidized service?

-- what is the best approach to regulating small family day care providers?

-- what role, if any, should we play in helping working parents locate day care for their children?

The author hopes that some of the data contained in this paper will be of service to Washington-area local governments as they work out their answers to these questions.

Footnotes:

1 Steven Fosburg, Family Day Care in the United States: Summary of Findings (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), 1981, page 3.

2 For more detail, see More Women Working: The Growth of Washington's Female Labor Force, 1960 to 1979, by Janice Hamilton Outtz (Washington, D.C.: Greater Washington Research Center), 1981

3 Fosburg, op. cit., page 3.

4 Ibid., page 3.

5 Martin O'Connell et al.,"The Children of Working Mothers", American Demographics, 1982, page 29.

6 Fosburg, op. cit., page 5.

7 Joseph J. O'Hara et al., Project Connections: A study of Child Care Information and Referral Systems, Phase I Results (Cambridge, Massachusetts: American Institute for Research in the Behavioral Sciences), 1979(?).

Appendix A

Regulations for Family Day Care Homes
With a Small Number of Children
Six Central Jurisdictions
May, 1982

	District of Columbia	Montgomery County	Prince George's County	Alexandria	Arlington County	Fairfax County[2]	
No. of family day care homes							
a. licensed	299[1]	588	500	-	-	-	-
b. approved/certified[3]	-	-	-	85	168	-	200
c. In I&R System[4]	-	-	-	-	-	300	-
Minimum/Maximum No. of children in homes	1-5	1-6	1-6	1-5	1-3	1-5	1-5
Limitation on No. of children allowed based on age and number of caregiver's children present	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Physical examination and frequency of							
a. caregiver(s)	annual	annual	biennial	annual	annual	none	annual
b. household members[5]	annual	annual	biennial	annual	annual	none	within 30 days of admission and annually thereafter
c. children in day care	before admission & annually thereafter	before admission & annually thereafter	before admission & annually thereafter	within 30 days of admission and annually thereafter	before admission and annually thereafter	none	
Evaluation of financial capacity of caregiver	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Inspection by:							
a. licensing department	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
b. health department	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no
c. Building department	no[6]	yes[7]	no	no	yes	no	no
d. Fire Department	plan review[8]	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Mandatory Orientation Program	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes

SOURCE: Interviews by Clavel Albay in April-May, 1982 with local officials.

FOOTNOTES TO APPENDIX A

1 This number includes 200 independent family day care homes and 99 contract family day care homes. (Family and Child Services = 52 homes; Catholic Charities = 11 homes, and Department of Human Services =36 homes.)

2 In addition to those listed, 73 family day care homes are currently part of three separate family day care systems in Fairfax.

3 Alexandria's certification process is voluntary for small family day care providers but mandatory for those providers who participate in the Title XX Day Care Subsidy Program. Arlington County has 168 approved homes. The approval process is mandatory for homes caring for one to three children unrelated to the caregiver. Fairfax's approval process is mandatory for those providers who participate in the Title XX day care subsidy program.

4 In Fairfax County, providers of family day care with 5 or less children in care are encouraged to attend a 40-hour training program which makes them eligible for inclusion in the computerized list of day care providers that the County sends to parents requesting information.

5 The District of Columbia requires an annual physical examination of the caregiver's own children under six years of age. Montgomery County requires an annual physical examination for the caregiver's family and household help. Prince George's County requires a biennial examination of the caregiver's family and household help. Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax require an annual physical examination of the caregiver's household members who have direct contact with the children in day care.

6 The District of Columbia's Child Development Facilities Regulation (Section 405(a)(2)(E) cites Section 616.2(1)2 of the Building Code as follows: "all habitable rooms in...child development homes in unprotected woodframe construction shall have access to two (2) separate means of exit at least one of which shall consist of an enclosed interior stair, or exterior stairway, or fire escape or a horizontal exit, all so arranged as to provide a safe path of travel to the outside of the building without traversing any corridor or space exposed to an unprotected vertical opening."

7 Home inspection is done by the Housing Code Enforcement Division for single-family dwellings and by the Landlord/Tenant Affairs department for multi-family dwellings.

8 The District of Columbia's Child Development Facilities Regulation states: "All child development homes and child development centers shall have a fire exit drill plan. The plan shall be submitted to the Fire Chief of the District of Columbia, for review, and receive the approval of the Fire Chief before it is put into operation."

Appendix B

Regulations for Family Day Care Homes
Serving Over a Certain Minimum Number of Children
Six Central Jurisdictions
May, 1982

	District of Columbia	Montgomery County	Prince George's County	Alexandria	Arlington County	Fairfax County
Number of Licensed Homes:	Classified as Day Care Centers			0	15	3
Minimum/Maximum Number of Children in Home	6 or more	7 or more	7 or more	6-9	4-9	6-9
Limitation on Number of Children Allowed Based on Age and Number of Caregiver's Children Present	Subject to all Regulations Covering Day Care Centers			yes	yes	yes
Physical Examination & Frequency of:						
a) Caregiver(s)				annual	annual	annual
b) Household members who have direct contact with children				annual	annual	annual
c) Children in day care				within 30 days before or after admission and annually thereafter		
Evaluation of Financial Capacity of Caregiver				yes	yes	yes
Inspections:						
a) Licensing Department				yes	yes	yes
b) Health Department				yes	yes	yes
c) Building Department				yes	yes	yes
d) Fire Department				yes	yes	yes
Zoning Ordinance Requirement for Special Permit						
a) Single Family Dwelling Zone				not allowed	yes	yes
b) Multiple Family Dwelling Zone				yes	yes	yes
c) Application Fee				$50	$30	$50
d) Public Hearings				2	1	2
e) Duration of Application Process				2 mos.	2 mos.	3 mos.
Mandatory Orientation Program				yes	none	yes
Effective Period of License				1 yr.	1 yr.	1 yr.

SOURCE: Interviews by Clavel Albay in April-May 1982 with local officials.

Appendix C

Children as Percent of Total Population
Six Central Jurisdictions
1980

Jurisdiction	Total Population	Children 0-4 yrs (percent)	Children 5-13 yrs. (percent)	Total (percent)
District of Columbia	638,333	5.4	10.9	16.3
Montgomery County	579,053	5.8	13.3	19.0
Prince George's County	665,071	7.0	14.4	21.4
Alexandria	103,217	5.3	8.5	13.8
Arlington County	152,599	4.5	7.7	12.2
Fairfax County	596,901	6.4	14.9	21.3
Total	2,735,174	6.0	12.9	18.9

Source: U.S. Census, 1980.